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CIA/OSR/MEMO 750409 Memo for Addressees-Gr. Forces  
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*CIA/OSR/memo 750409*

9 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Addressees

SUBJECT : Greek Forces on the Aegean Islands

1. Attached is an assessment of Greek reinforcements on islands in the Aegean area. Preparation of this study was mentioned in the Alert Memorandum of 4 April. A study on this subject was also requested by Embassy Ankara. It was prepared in CIA/OSR and has been coordinated with DIA analysts.

2. We plan to follow this up with an expanded OB estimate in the next few days when further analytical work by CIA and DIA has resolved some ambiguities discussed in the present text.

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National Intelligence Officer  
for Western Europe

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9 April 1975

MEMORANDUM

Greek Forces in the Aegean

Greek army forces in the Aegean are concentrated on the six major islands of Limnos, Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Rhodes, with smaller units deployed for surveillance purposes on several of the less important islands as well.

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The information currently available indicates that the Greeks began reinforcement of the islands during last spring's Aegean crisis, but that most of the reinforcement has occurred since the Cyprus crisis of July and August.

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Information on the personnel and equipment strengths of units on the islands is extremely limited. This is particularly true for those units which were on the islands prior to the recent buildup, since many of them are configured specifically for use there and thus differ from units stationed on the mainland in their organization and equipment. It is also not always clear from some reports whether units designated for defense of the islands were actually there at the time of the report or were merely planned for deployment to the islands at some later time.

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It should also be noted that the islands also contain National Guard and Gendarmerie forces [REDACTED] which would play an important part in their defense. For the purposes of this memorandum, however, only regular active duty Greek military personnel are counted.

There is little doubt that Greek military forces are present on the islands of the eastern Aegean and the thrust of the reporting indicates that a relatively large buildup of these forces has been going on since last fall and that the buildup is continuing. The following island-by-island roundup necessarily involves rough estimates, but they accurately portray the magnitude of the changes which have taken place.

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